

Infection Control

Madison County Health Department

What is infection control?

- Infection control is a term used that describes ways we can prevent the spread of infection.
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Why is infection control important in health care?

- Infections can cause pain, suffering and often, permanent scarring. In the worst cases, death can occur. Infections cause extra days in the hospital and lead to higher costs for patients and their families.
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What types of infections can be prevented by using good infection control practices?

- Urinary Tract Infections
 - Bloodstream Infections
 - Pneumonia
 - Surgical Wound Infections
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What is the first and most important step to infection control?

□ Hand Hygiene



Handwashing can be performed in two ways.

- ❑ Use of water and antimicrobial soap and washing for at least 15 seconds. This is the preferred method if hands are visibly soiled or if caring for a patient with known or suspected infectious diarrhea.
 - ❑ Use of an alcohol based hand rub, placing a golf-ball size portion in your hands and rubbing completely.
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When should you perform hand hygiene?

- Before having direct patient contact, even if gloves will be worn
 - Before exiting the patient's care area after touching the patient or the patient's immediate environment
 - After contact with blood, body fluids or excretions, or wound dressings
 - Prior to performing an aseptic task (i.e. preparing an injection)
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Continued:

- ❑ If hands will be moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site
 - ❑ After glove removal

 - ❑ Health care workers providing direct patient care should not wear artificial nails or extenders. Artificial nails have been linked to infections in patients.
 - ❑ Keep nails short and hands moisturized.
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Storage of patients supplies

- ❑ Patient care items must be stored in a clean location at least 8 inches above the floor. Patient care items must not be stored under-sink cabinets.
 - ❑ Set a routine to check items that have expiration dates.
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Proper Refrigeration

- ❑ Monitor and maintain temperature
- ❑ Keep food/nourishments in a separate refrigerator from medications
- ❑ Never place lab specimens in a medication or nourishment refrigerator



Single-Use versus Reusable patient items

- Many patient care devices and items are designed to be used with one patient and often only one time. These items are considered disposable and must not be resterilized or reused. Read the manufacturer's directions to be sure how a device is intended to be used.
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Regulated Medical Waste

❑ Must be placed in red biohazard bags

❑ Examples include:

Full sharps containers

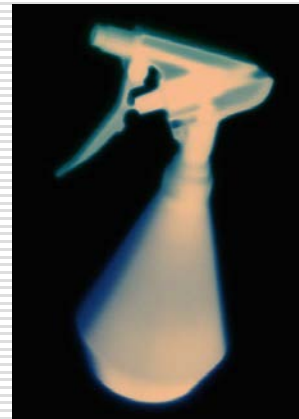
Greater than 20ml blood or blood products

Microbiology and Pathology specimens



Cleaning and Disinfection

- ❑ Reusable patient care devices/items must be properly cleaned and disinfected following strict guidelines. See MCHD Infection Control Policy for specific guidelines.



What else can you do?

- ❑ Make sure you have been immunized
See MCHD Infection Control Policy for list of required immunizations
 - ❑ Don't work if you are sick. Talk with your supervisor if you are not sure if you should be working.
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Questions???

- Contact your supervisor or Hayley McPeters, RN at 649-3531 ext.250/
hlist@madisoncountync.gov

